

HOW TO RESPOND TO A POTENTIAL EXPOSURE



Expert Tip: Before an exposure occurs, establish a designated occupational health or urgent care clinic so employees can receive prompt evaluation, testing, and follow-up care.

1

Immediately wash area with soap and water or flush eyes



- Wash the area thoroughly with soap and water.
- If splashed in the eyes, flush with clean water or saline for at least 15 minutes.

2

Report the incident to employer



- Notify your supervisor or designated person immediately.
- Complete your facility's exposure report form as soon as possible.

3

Request source be tested



- Ask for the source patient to be tested for HIV, HBV, and HCV (with consent).
- Document the request in the report.

4

Fill out injury report and gather paperwork



- Complete all required injury reports.
- Gather any necessary information (time, type of exposure, how it occurred).

5

Confidential medical evaluation ASAP with follow-up as needed



- Seek medical evaluation immediately.
- Follow all recommended treatment, testing, and follow-up appointments.

IMPORTANT REMINDERS



- Do NOT squeeze or bleed the wound.
- Do NOT recap, bend, or manipulate needles.
- Prompt action protects your health.
- Treat contaminated sharps injuries as **medical emergencies**.